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PeopleFIRST
NJ Department of Human Services

Monthly Communicator

New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



March 2004

Vol. 25

No. 3

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
GOVERNOR

JAMES DAVY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

BRIAN C. SHOMO
DIRECTOR

New Jersey and Hearing Loss... Are You in the Loop?

**Where: Marriott
Conference Hotel,
1 West Lafayette
Street, Trenton, NJ**

**When: Thursday,
April 29, 2004**

**Time:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Cost: None



The theme of this conference, "New Jersey and Hearing Loss, Are You in the Loop?" will focus on current issues affecting the quality of life for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened. During the last several years, technology has improved which has enabled more people with hearing loss communication access to programs and services. Several speakers will address this concentration followed by a question and answer period.

Registration forms appeared in the February Monthly Communicator, and can be obtained on page 13 at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/Publications/febmc04.pdf>.

The deadline for registration is April 1st. First come, first served. If you would like additional information contact DDHH at 609-984-7281 V/TTY or 609-984-0390 Fax.

James Davy Appointed DHS Acting Commissioner

James M. Davy, an individual highly regarded for his professionalism and commitment to public service, is Governor James E. McGreevey's choice for Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, an agency which serves more than one million of New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens.

Davy, 50, has been Chief of Management and Operations in the Office of the Governor since the start of the McGreevey Administration. He was responsible for the management and coordination of Cabinet and State government operations and was instrumental in developing the Administration's policy agenda.

As Chief of Management and Operations, Davy played a key role in virtually every major initiative of the McGreevey Administration. He recruited the most diverse, talented Cabinet in New Jersey history, restructured the state's school construction program and created the School Construction Corporation, directed labor negotiations and coordinated State government's response to heightened terrorism concerns.



Prior to joining State government, Davy served as Business Administrator in Woodbridge Township for 10 years. He held similar positions in South Brunswick, Hopewell and West Milford. During 2001, he was Chief of Operations for the McGreevey for Governor Campaign, and he later was Director of the Governor's Transition Team.

A past President of the New Jersey Municipal Management Association, Davy also was the Chairman of the Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Committee for the International City Management Association. He served on several committees for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities between 1978 and 2001.

Davy earned his master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and his undergraduate degree at Thiel College in Pennsylvania. He has also taught as an Adjunct Professor in Seton Hall University's Masters in Public Administration Program.

Davy lives in Pennington with his wife, Lucille, and their two sons.

MONTHLY COMMUNICATOR

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Deadline for submissions: First of the month for the following month's edition

A New Face in the Crowd: Getting to Know ... Chris Tester

By: Jason Weiland, DDHH Field Representative

There is a new face in New Jersey and it belongs to none other than Chris Tester who recently joined the staff of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. As Special Project Coordinator and Investigator, Tester spends much of his time focusing on the new Disability and Special Accommodations Investigation Unit recently created by the Division. Based in the agency's Newark office, he can be reached at (973) 643-2351 TTY or by email at chris.testers@lps.state.nj.us.

Where are you originally from?

I grew up in Northeast Vermont on a small farm with my mom, dad, and younger brother. I went to Austine School for the Deaf which is located in Brattleboro, Vermont for seven years. For the last three years of high school, I attended the public high school in my hometown. Through high school, I was involved with the ski team. My involvement with skiing continued through my college years.

What college/university did you attend and what degree did you graduate with?

In the Fall of 1999, I enrolled in the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, which is an hour west of Boston. During my junior year, I was involved in the study abroad program at University of Sussex in Brighton, England. Brighton is located on the English Channel just an hour south of London. During my time from September 2001 to July 2002, I was forced to learn BSL (British Sign Language) before I could even learn my regular classes. Upon my arrival at Sussex, comparisons to ASL were literally out the door. Though it was a challenging experience, I found it exciting and fun to have mastered a new language. I met many deaf people in London. My social experience in England was amazing. Since England is much smaller than the United States, traveling to deaf events was easier. Deaf people from Scotland, Ireland, and Wales came to many of the festivals (or rallies as they were often called) held all over England. While I was at Sussex University, I also had the



opportunity to travel to other countries in Europe including Greece, Italy, Germany, Amsterdam, and Spain and many of the other western European countries were on my travel itinerary.

Upon arriving back to the United States and the College of the Holy Cross, I completed my senior year and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in May of 2003. While I was a student at the college, I was provided with ASL interpreters and notetakers throughout my years there. I was very happy with my experience and the education that I received from my professors and this wonderful program.

What type of professional work are you involved with?

I have been hired as Special Project Coordinator and Investigator for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR) focusing on the new Disability and Special Accommodations Investigation Unit. Since August of 2003, I have been enjoying my work

in the Newark office. I also travel throughout the State of NJ to provide outreach at conferences, workshops, and meetings related to disability issues. As Coordinator, one of my many responsibilities involves increasing the cultural sensitivity of the DCR staff in regards to disability issues. One project we are currently working on involves setting up TTY and cultural sensitivity trainings for our five district offices (Paterson, Newark, Camden, Trenton, and Atlantic City). I am also the conference coordinator for our agency's "Protecting the Rights of People with Hearing Loss" conference in March.

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

The one thing I like about my job is that I feel like I'm working for a cause. Under Attorney General Peter Harvey, our Division has come a long way towards expanding our services to include everyone who may experience issues related to the Law Against Discrimination (LAD). The staff I work with has been really wonderful and I feel good about being part of the "expansion of services." My experience at the Newark office was much smoother than I had expected upon my arrival at DCR. People have been very friendly and accommodating while treating me as a "regular" staff member.

What are your strategies for communicating with people who do not use sign language?

We need to respect each other's differences. So, I try to respect people who

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Improved Communication for Patients Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

This material is provided and reprinted with the permission of Hackensack University Medical Center.

Hard of hearing patients have applauded the initiatives developed through the Pursuing Perfection grant program to improve communication between them and their caregivers at Hackensack University Medical Center.



Hackensack University Medical Center

“This was an ideal initiative for the Pursuing Perfection Geriatric Project because it achieved several of the grant program’s aims, including providing safer and more effective care, helping patients feel more respected by the healthcare system, and promoting quicker recoveries,” said Knight Steel, M.D., division chief of Geriatrics. “Now we are challenged by the grant sponsors to share what we have learned with others across the country.”

The Department of Internal Medicine/ Division of Geriatrics, the Department of Audiology, and the Department of Nursing Education, combined forces to implement strategies that identify hearing difficulty in elderly patients and improve communication between persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and their caregivers.

“This initiative came to fruition because of the dedicated leadership of Joan Rittgers, who is our research nurse for the Division of Geriatrics,” said Dr. Steel. “The success we have achieved reflect her commitment to assure compassionate patient-centered care of the highest quality for our elders.”

Ms. Rittgers, in turn, makes note of the tremendous human spirit and collaborative efforts of the medical center staff. “So many outstanding individuals contributed to making our

vision of enhanced care for the elderly a reality,” she added. “We gratefully recognize each individual’s contribution as a strong link in our chain of successes.”

To strengthen staff awareness and understanding of the specific needs of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, a campaign called “Open the Doors to Better Hearing for the Elderly” was launched. The following strategies were implemented:

Early Intervention

Screening for hearing difficulty is part of the admission process for elders. This population was targeted because the prevalence of hearing loss increases dramatically as we age. All older persons being admitted to the medical center are questioned as to whether they have difficulty hearing. Individuals who wear hearing aids and yet have difficulty communicating are offered a new battery. The medical center now stocks four sizes of hearing aid batteries for this purpose.

Proper Needs Assessment/Audiology Consults and Evaluations

If hearing difficulty is identified during the admission screening, the nurse highlights this fact in the chart and the admitting physician places an order for an audiology consultation. If the audiologist determines that the degree of hearing loss will have an impact on the elder’s safety, a complete audiological evaluation is carried out to determine the type and degree of hearing loss. Counseling about hearing loss, effective coping mechanisms, and recommendations for

amplification with assistive listening devices are provided as needed. If the person wishes to purchase a hearing aid, the fitting process can begin at that time, although it takes two to three weeks after taking an impression of the ear canal for the instrument to be custom made.

Assistive Listening Devices

Patients who have a degree of hearing difficulty that impairs communication will be provided with assistive listening devices. (See story on assistive listening devices on page 2.) Persons who are deaf are informed that sign language interpreters are available 24 hours a day to ensure effective communication whenever needed. Also, they are provided with other assistive devices that may be helpful.

Proper Identification for Staff Awareness

Identification of a patient’s specific needs is key to creating an appropriate response from caregivers. Therefore, a special needs notification is included on the initial bed assignment paperwork for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. This identifies their needs and allows the admitting nurse to conduct a more detailed evaluation. In addition, stickers with the hearing loss symbol from the National Association of the Deaf are used to identify patients who are deaf or hard of hearing so that physicians, nursing staff, and others attending them are alerted. A sticker is placed next to the assigned bed number on the nursing station’s call bell intercom system. When the call bell lights, a staff member responds by going to the bedside rather than using the intercom. Another sticker placed on the front of

Continued on page 5

the chart informs all staff of the hearing loss wherever the patient goes for tests and procedures. Additionally, a large hearing loss symbol on a laminated sign is affixed to the wall above the patient's bed. This is a safety measure designed to inform the staff of persons who cannot hear audible alarms in the event of an emergency.

Easy Resource Tools for Staff Reference

Resource tools for staff reference are readily available in each patient care area. Especially valuable is a flip chart developed by Joan Rittgers and Grace Pichardo, Consumer Affairs Project Coordinator. This laminated chart is a step-by-step-guide that describes all the services and devices available for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. It also provides all phone numbers needed to coordinate a cohesive response plan. The Nursing Executive Council has directed that this flip chart be placed in the "Safety Corner" of each patient care area. Another effective tool is a dedicated procurement form from the Materials Management Department that facilitates the delivery of selected assistive devices.

Special Parking Accommodations for Outpatient Visits

Many hard of hearing patients have difficulty understanding the garbled sounds from intercoms. Therefore, patients with hearing loss who have an outpatient appointment for audiology services are sent a special parking pass so that they do not have to use the intercom as they enter the parking garage of the Don Imus-WFAN Pediatric Center for Tomorrow's Children, where the Department of Audiology is located. Instead, the patient is instructed to push the red button and hold the authorized entry card up to the Security Department's camera at the entrance to the parking garage. This accommodation elimi-

nates the need to hear and respond to instructions to voice their destination.

Enhanced Patient Safety and Quality of Care

"Patient safety and quality of care depend on optimal communication," said Maryrose McInerney, Ph.D., director of Audiology. "The strategies that we have implemented empower patients to take a more active part in their treatment and decision-making. Effective communication enables these patients to give more accurate answers, understand instructions, and follow directions."

According to Dr. Steel, when the needs of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are not addressed, some hospitalized patients are mistakenly labeled as confused, uncooperative, unresponsive, or slow. Likely, he adds, they are also at a higher risk for hospital-associated delirium, which is associated with an intense increase in morbidity.

Treatment Improves Quality of Life

Dr. McInerney encourages those newly diagnosed with hearing loss to resist denial of their communication difficulty. She understands the social stigma that many seniors feel when they wear hearing aids, but she tells her patients that their resistance to treatment has a very negative impact on their quality of life. Untreated hearing loss can lead to social isolation, withdrawal, and depression, and it causes many psychological, emotional, and physical changes in health and mental status.

"Identification and treatment of hearing loss has a significant impact on the overall quality of life for these patients," said Dr. Steel, "which is the ultimate goal of all of our Pursuing Perfection Geriatric Project initiatives - to maximize the physical functioning, independence, and quality of life

of elders admitted to the medical center."

Other initiatives of the Pursuing Perfection Geriatric Project, aside from those for the deaf and hard of hearing, include screening programs to identify falls, early osteoporosis, and incontinence (in women) upon admission to the hospital. Results are made available to the physician, nursing staff, patients, and family members (when appropriate) to allow for review, referral, and treatment.

**For more information
about the Pursuing
Perfection Geriatric
Project, contact Joan
Rittgers, RN at**

**(201) 336-8477 Voice or
jrittgers@humed.com.**

**If you or a loved one needs
a hearing evaluation,
contact the Department of**

**Audiology at
(201) 996-5327 Voice.**

Introducing the KOALA Klub at the Katzenbach School for the Deaf

Submitted by Sharon DeVito, MKSD

The practice of mainstreaming children with special needs is not a new concept in New Jersey's classrooms. This year, the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf has given a new definition to mainstreaming by doing it in reverse. In September 2003, Katzenbach School launched a pilot program, Katzenbach's Oral Aural Language Academy, the KOALA Klub. The KOALA Klub program provides children with cochlear implants the opportunity to participate in an academic Pre-School Program with their hearing peers. Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children with cochlear implants come together with hearing children in a language-enriched environment using Total Communication.



The KOALA CLUB Program is located in the Nursery School building on the park-like 110-acre campus of the Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Ewing. Katzenbach serves children from all parts of the State of New Jersey and the nearby areas of Pennsylvania.

Two certified Teachers of the Deaf, who are also certified in Early Childhood Education, staff the KOALA Klub. The staff also includes one full-time and one half-time teaching assistant. There is a low student to staff ratio. It is a 5-day a week, full-day program for the children with hearing loss. Hearing children attend 2 full-days a week. The

modeling of language by the hearing children is vital to the success of the program.

The classrooms are equipped with sound field systems, and when appropriate, the children are fitted with a



Solaris FM system to maximize the development of their auditory potential. Specially designed CD's are included in the auditory training curriculum. A typical day finds the children participating in circle time, morning snack, music and movement, Montessori instruction, speech therapy, physical education, exploration of classroom interest areas, group activity, lunch, recess, rest time, story time, physical education, and an afternoon snack.

Services provided by a Speech and Language Pathologist certified by the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASHA) and an Educational Audiologist include Cochlear Implant habilitation, individual and group speech therapy, auditory training, speech reading, articulation, and audiological services. Collaborative planning with medical implant teams is a significant part of the program. Parents and guardians are regularly informed of their child's progress and developmental milestones through the use of a communication book. This book is a valuable source of information sharing between home and school.

Katzenbach's philosophy of Total Communication involves manual, oral, auditory, and written modalities, depending on the particular needs of the children and their families. Participation in the KOALA Klub program allows flexibility without eliminating any of the options. The KOALA Klub program is designed to meet the unique language and speech development needs of children with cochlear implants, while at the same time enabling each child to develop his or her unique learning style to acquire the pre-academic skills necessary for learning success.

For KOALA Klub information please contact: Ann Fajgier in the Nursery School at 609-530-3185 Voice, 609-530-3187 TTY, or send an email to: Fajgier@mkdsd.state.nj.us



Information concerning

Katzenbach's day or residential programs for children, birth to twenty-one, is available by a variety of methods. You can visit us on the web at www.mkdsd.org; call Margaret Provost, Enrollment Coordinator at 609-530-3156 Voice/TTY; or send an e-mail to: MAPMKSD@aol.com

are not Deaf and Hard of Hearing to the point that I know there will be no "surprises" when working with people. In addition to being a fluent ASL user, I am also comfortable with speaking and lip-reading. At work, I have been very fortunate to work with people who are patient and easy to work with.

As a young deaf professional, what would you say to others currently in high school or a post-secondary program?

Study hard, play later. Education is very important. It's important to be bilingual. Having fluency in both English and American Sign Language will give you greater success in the work force. It's also important to open yourself to new experiences such as the Study Abroad program. I participated in the study Study Abroad program while at the College of the Holy Cross, where I studied British Sign Language.

What would you say to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing?

As someone who comes from a hearing family, I know it's important to have the support of family members and know they believe that I'm equal to my peers. The use of sign language in the family was very important to me as it allowed me to be involved with all family activities. I hope to see other families find ways to better communicate and bond with their deaf or hard of hearing child.

What do you like the most about New Jersey?

The one thing I like the most about NJ is that our government is working very hard to protect the civil rights of our residents and making the state a wonderful place to work. I actually live in Manhattan so I'm still learning more about NJ everyday.

New Jersey Association for Deaf, (NJAD) Inc. 2004 Agenda

Board meetings at NJAD home office of MKSD

Sunday, March 21

Sunday, May 2

Sunday, June 6

Sunday, October 3

Sunday, November 7

General meetings at NJAD home office of MKSD

Sunday, April 18

Sunday, September 12

Sunday, December 5

Workshops

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About
Equal Employment Opportunity-
Presented by Joanne Karayiannidis

Sunday, March 7

1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Westfield Memorial Library

550 East Broad Street

Westfield, NJ 07090

Breast Health Awareness:

How to Take Care of Yourself

Presented by Meghan Rainone

Sunday, April 4

Voorhees Library

203 Laurel Road

Voorhees, NJ 08043

Finance Planning

Presented by Allon Yomtov

Sunday, May 2

2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

NJSD Jochem Center

Sullivan Way

Trenton, NJ

Hospice Care: What is Hospice?

Presented by Paulette Gabel

Sunday, June 13

Time -TBA

For more information, contact Carrie Pogue, 2nd Vice President, at ecempog@aol.com, 609-476-3526 TTY or 609-476-2834 Fax.

Did You Know That ...

The DDHH 20th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day will be held on June 12, 2004, at Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ. Selling Great Adventure tickets is still a great fundraising opportunity for non-profit organizations or clubs. If your organization or club would like to participate with ticket sales, please contact Lauren Lercher at GATickets@aol.com with your name, e-mail address and the name of your organization/club.

Closed Captioning of NJN News Made Possible by Kirby Funds Real-time closed captioning for the daily newscast was made possible by the F.M. Kirby Foundation. The foundation's grant will allow NJN to meet the FCC mandates for the New Year and is also great news for the 720,000 deaf and hard of hearing citizens of the State of New Jersey who will now have access to our coverage. "Closed captioning has made television programs accessible to me and the thousands of other people in New Jersey who depend on visual text since we have hearing loss," said Brian C. Shomo, Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

CCC Lauds Adjunct Instructors For Excellence In Teaching Three part-time faculty members who have instructed the students of Camden County College (CCC) for a combined total of 39 years have received CCC's 2003 awards for adjunct teaching excellence. Rupina Prabhakar of Marlton (English as a second language) was selected from the Division of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Linda Pinto of Sewell (mathematics skills) was selected from the Division of Math, Science and Health Careers. Joseph Lee of Bridgeton (computer information systems) was selected from the Division of Business, Computers and Technical Studies. Prabhakar has been an ESL adjunct since 1995 and is the only ESL instructor at CCC who instructs deaf and hard of hearing students. According to her colleagues, she has distinguished herself through the attention that she pays to student needs. In addition to teaching, Prabhakar has developed and presented the workshop "Strategies of Teaching ESL Students in Mainstream English Classes" at Rutgers University and was an invited panelist for CCC's forum "What Deaf Students Want You to Know About Having a Hearing Loss in a Mainstream Classroom."

The Metropolitan Museum of Art routinely has programs with sign language, captioning, and assistive listening devices. There are also public telephones with volume control and TTY. The museum is located at 1000 Fifth Ave., and 82nd St., New York, NY 10028-0198. For information about access, call (212) 570-3828 TTY. For general information, call (212) 650-2551 TTY, (212) 879-5500 Voice, education@metmuseum.org, www.metmuseum.org.

Union County College's Interpreter Forum will present "Medical Interpreting" on March 6 at the Main Lecture Hall on Cranford Campus from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Find out the answers to all your questions. Contact Pat Penberthy at 973-394-1653 Voice, paknight@optonline.net for additional information.

The Diverse Deaf Club of NJ will host Super Dingo Game /50-50 Cash Prize Drawings on Saturday, March 6, 2004 at Our Lady of Peace Church-Parish Center, 1740 US Highway Route 130, No. Brunswick, NJ. The door opens at 6 p.m. and the game starts at 8 p.m. Donations are \$7 for member and \$9 for non member. Refreshments will be on sale. Info: Herbert Burns at: 732-435-0420 TTY, 732-537-7742 TTY.

All are invited to ALDA-GS's 9th Birthday Bash and Open House on

March 27 from 12 noon till 3 p.m. to be held at the East Brunswick Public Library.

For more information, contact, Elinore Bullock, john.bullock@mindspring.com or 908-832-5056 TTY.

Religious Access

Protestant Community Service Ministry with the Deaf is interpreted the 1st and 4th Sunday every month at 11:00 a.m. at the Second Baptist Church, 124 Atkins Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712. The Rev. Dr. Brian J. Wells, Pastor resides. Deaconess Margaret Upperman, can be reached for info at 732-774-5347 Voice.

Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center (EIPDC)

*Submitted by Cynthia Williams,
Union County College*

Union County College, with funding from the New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center (EIPDC) for currently employed Interpreters working in school districts in New Jersey. The EIPDC will be located at the Plainfield campus.

The EIPDC will serve a target audience of interpreters who are currently employed in school systems in the counties of Warren, Sussex, Passaic, Morris, Union, Hudson, Bergen, Essex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex. The EIPDC will provide working Educational Interpreters Professional Development in the form of Assessment of Skills, Development of Skills, Development Plans, Post-Assessments and Professional Development in order to upgrade their skills in preparation for the pending NJ Educational Interpreter Licensing.

The EIPDC will be open to 50 currently employed Interpreters working in school districts in New Jersey.

Applications for those Educational Interpreters interested in participating in this voluntary program are available through the EIPDC office. Schools where the Educational Interpreters are employed may recommend candidates and have those candidates apply directly with EIPDC. The EIPDC Coordinator will interview the interpreters who are making applying to register and participate in the EIPDC program to be tested and assessed. The EIPDC will

coordinate and schedule assessment (s) based on the candidate's experience with educational interpreting.

Tracking of Assessment Process/Monitoring of Progress Portfolio

Portfolio's will include the interpreter's resume or Curriculum Vitae, high school and college transcripts, transcripts of CEU's earned, certificates of workshops attended, documentation of certification, if any, employment and job description as an educational interpreter.

Summer Institute

Two 4-day intensive "Professional Development" opportunities are being offered for interpreters mainly Sign Language interpreters who wish to engage in a deeper development experience.

*The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), developed by D. Brenda Schick and Kevin Williams in 1993, is a tool specifically designed to evaluate the performance of educational interpreters in the unique skills necessary for interpreting for children in public school settings. The EIPA will be used for both pre-assessment and post-assessment of the participants using sign language. The Department of Education will require all "Educational Interpreters", i.e. aides/signers or any persons who work in the educational system in the capacity of an interpreter using Sign Language, Oral Interpreting or Cued Speech, to have an "EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE" with specific requirements to continue working in the field until final licensure is mandated. Final

Licensing for Sign Language Interpreter, Oral Interpreter and Cued Speech Translator candidates will include fifteen semester hour credits of professional education coursework. This course work includes study in child development, language development, curriculum development, legal and ethical issues for educational interpreters and methods of instruction with interpreting for visually-impaired or blind students as an optional course. The deadlines for the Emergency Certificate and New Jersey Educational Interpreter Licensing will be announced in the near future by the New Jersey Department of Education.

If you are an interpreter working in the Educational system grades Pre-K to 12 the EIPDC is available to you!

***For information on the EIPDC
contact the EIPDC Coordinator,
Cynthia L. Williams, MSW at
the Plainfield Campus (908)
791-4935 Voice or check out our
Web site for information and
updates at www.ucc.edu/EIPDC.***

DVR Would Like to Learn About Your Experiences

Interested? Become a member of a focus group of deaf and hard of hearing to discuss your experiences. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) wants to invite you to become a member of a group of deaf and hard of hearing people to discuss your experiences. You will be paid \$20 and served light refreshments to show our appreciation. We need eight to ten members for our group. Discussion will last about two hours. If you are chosen to be a member of the focus group, you will be sent a letter telling you the date, time, and place the group will meet. Contact: Paulette Knarr, DVR counselor, 609 984-1568 TTY, pknarr@dol.state.nj.us, 609-292-7848 Voice.

If you are interested, please fill out the form below and fax to 609-984-3553, or mail to DVR, Paulette Knarr, PO Box 959, Trenton NJ 08625

Name _____ Phone _____ Voice/TTY _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

E-mail: _____ Fax _____

I am working now _____ I am not working now _____

I work fulltime _____ part time _____

Seabrook Village Visits Assistive Device Demo Center

Even after two "mini" assistive listening equipment demonstrations at their facility, senior residents of Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls were thirsty for more. A field trip to the Assistive Device Demo Center in New Brunswick was organized where a small group was met by Traci Burton, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Field Representative and given a tour of the center followed by one-on-one sessions.

If you are interested in organizing a similar field trip for your facility or group, please contact Traci at 800-792-8339 V/TTY to make an appointment.

The Center for Childhood Communication at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Smith College and The Clarke School for the Deaf Educational Consultant Program

This innovative training program will prepare teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing to serve children with cochlear implants in educational settings and cochlear implant centers (This is not for speech therapists or audiologists). Participants obtain intensive training to provide leadership in the development and implementation of educational programs for children with cochlear implants. National and international experts serve as faculty. It will be held at The Center for Childhood Communication at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dates: Six-week training program (Select one session)

Session A: June 21 to July 30, 2004; **Session B:** January 18 to February 25, 2005

Graduate Credits: 9 graduate credits (3 courses) from Smith College

Tuition and Books: No charge

Stipend: \$500 - Philadelphia area students; \$2200 - Non- Philadelphia area students

Enrollment: Eight students per session, apply early. There is great competition for the limited places.

Application Deadline: Session A: March 1, 2004. Session B, October 1, 2004

Richard W. Fee, Ph. D., Director, Educational Consultant Training Program, Center for Childhood Communication, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104

For further information and APPLICATIONS, go to:
<http://www.chop.edu/cochlearimplant>

Division of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Current Advisory Council Membership

Department Representatives:

NJ Department of Health & Senior Services, **Leslie M. Beres**

Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, **Dennis Russell**

NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, **Brian Fitzgibbons**

NJ Department of Education, **Therese Sheehan**

NJ Department of Human Services, **John Walsh**

NJ Commission on Higher Education, **Josie Durkow**

Public Members

Barbara Kraeger

Lisa Chapland

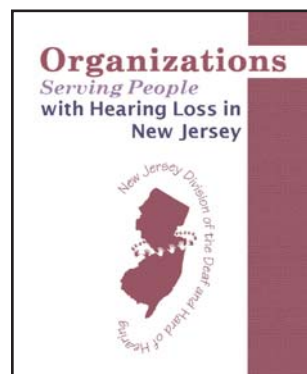
Steven Shevlin, Charlotte Karras, Bonnie Thomas, Alan Peter Tenthoff, Rose Pizzo

Wayne Roorda, Arlene London, Arlene Romoff, Jerel Barnhart, Ph.D., Carol Granaldi

Note: Department representatives serve indefinite terms.

DDHH "Organizations" Booklet Updates

Editor's Note: As you know, the DDHH published the tenth edition of Organizations Serving People With Hearing Loss in New Jersey. Everyone on the Monthly Communicator (MC) mailing list in November was sent a copy. We realize that this type of resource needs to be updated the moment it is printed. Rather than wait for a new edition, we decided to publish corrections and changes in the MC. These changes may appear periodically. You may wish to cut this page out and file with your copy of the booklet. Page number listed is the section where the information should be added.



Page 6 add - Sound Choice Assistive Listening, Inc., 498 Long Hill Road, Gillette, NJ 07933; 908-647- 2650 Voice, 908-647-2651 Fax, sndchoice@aol.com

www.synergy-emusic.com/soundchoice/html

Consultation, design manufacturing and sales of assistive technologies for people with hearing loss.

Page 7 - Soundbytes new Fax is 212-736-3126.

Page 19- DAWN, Inc. Independent Living Center, Carmela Slivinski, Executive Director, 400 South Main Street, Suite 3, Wharton, NJ 07885, (973)361-5666 Voice, (973)361-7086 Fax, (973)361-6032 TTY.

Page 28 - NJWAD, remove: 201-387-1799 Fax

add: new e-mail, nwjad@nwjad.org and keep NWJADeaf@aol.com; remove: <http://nwjad.tripod.com/> add: www.nwjad.org

page 33 - e-mail address should be; for **Paterson** address, acessboss@aol.com, and for **Access** south, accessouth1@aol.com.

Page 35 - Bright Hearing Center, 74 Brick Blvd Suite 114, Robbie Bright-Poole, (732) 920 -7171 Voice, (732) 920-772 Fax, brighthousecenter.com. Provides complete audiological testing, balance testing, hearing aid sales and service. Otolaryngologist (ENT) physician on site.

Pages 46 and 55 - Change contact info to: **Coleen Platt**, 247 Gettysburg Way, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035 973-628-8471 Voice (Business, Garden State Captioning), 973-628-1427 Fax, njcart@optonline.net

HKNC Summer Seminar - Take Control of Your Future!

The Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) is offering a two-week summer course to High School Juniors and Seniors with dual sensory loss (deaf-blindness). Taking control of your future means: gaining access to information, developing a positive attitude, knowing your options, knowing who you are, knowing your strengths/interests, knowing your rights and responsibilities, using your resources, learning from others/sharing with others. Come to an exciting, educational and action packed two week program. Learn how to determine what you can do to accomplish your goals right now and after graduation.

AUGUST 1ST THROUGH AUGUST 13TH, 2004

Cost: Tuition \$300/week Room and Board \$250/week

Class size (6 to 8 participants) is limited so contact us soon!

If you are a high school student or are graduating in June of 2004, you are welcome to attend. This seminar is designed to offer you information and practical experience to expand your awareness, knowledge and skill in the following areas: vocational exploration, accessing college and community supports and services, IEP and transition planning, adaptive technology and other communication aids/devices, self-determination and advocacy, communication methods, interpreting issues, orientation and mobility, low vision, audiology, Americans with Disabilities Act, skills of independent living. During your two-week stay at HKNC, you can enjoy participating in leisure and recreational activities during evenings and weekends while meeting new friends.

Info: Michael Brennan, Regional Rep., HKNC Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 141 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050, (516) 944-8900 ext. 310 Voice, (516) 883-6914 TTY, (516) 767.1738 Fax.

Proposed Bills for Hearing Aids in New Jersey 2004-2005

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

A430 - Requires health insurers to provide certain reimbursement for hearing aids. Imprieveduto, Anthony as Primary Sponsor, Quigley, Joan M. as Primary Sponsor.

1/13/2004 - Introduced, referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Reimbursement for expenses pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$6,000 per covered person. More than 28 million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing. Ninety percent of people with hearing loss may be helped by wearing a hearing aid, however, only five million people in the United States own a hearing aid. The cost of hearing aids range from approximately \$350 to \$5,200 depending on whether a conventional hearing or digital hearing aid is purchased.

S218 - Requires health insurers to provide coverage for hearing aids.

Singer, Robert W. as Primary Sponsor, Vitale, Joseph F. as Primary Sponsor.

Buono, Barbara as Co-Sponsor, Ciesla, Andrew R. as Co-Sponsor, Bucco, Anthony R as Co-Sponsor.

1/13/2004- Introduced in the Senate, referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

The coverage shall include the purchase of one analog or digital hearing aid for each ear at least every 48 months, as prescribed or recommended by a state licensed audiologist or a hearing aid dispenser licensed pursuant to N.J.S.A.45:9A-1 et seq. The total cost sharing responsibility of the covered person for the hearing aid, including any copayments or deductibles, shall not exceed 15% of the cost of the hearing aid.

S245 - Requires health insurers, State Health

Benefits Program and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for hearing aids for covered persons 18 years of age and younger.

Coniglio, Joseph as Primary Sponsor, Sweeney, Stephen M. as Primary Sponsor, Lance, Leonard as Co-Sponsor.

1/13/2004 - Introduced in the Senate, referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

The coverage shall include the purchase of a hearing aid for each ear, when medically necessary and as prescribed or recommended by a licensed physician or audiologist. The bill provides that the insurer may limit the benefit to \$1,000 per hearing aid for each hearing-impaired ear every 24 months. The bill further provides that a covered person may choose a hearing aid that is priced higher than the benefit payable under this bill, and may pay the difference between the price of the hearing aid and the benefit payable, without financial or contractual penalty to the provider of the hearing aid.

S402 - Increases Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged and Disabled Program allowance to \$500 per year.

Bucco, Anthony R. as Primary Sponsor, Ciesla, Andrew R. as Co-Sponsor.

1/13/2004 - Introduced in the Senate, referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

A1766 - "Grace's Law;" requires health insurers, State Health Benefits Program and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for hearing aids for covered persons 15 and younger.

1 /13/2004 - Introduced, referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Tucker, Donald Kofi as Primary Sponsor, Cohen, Neil M. as Primary Sponsor, Roberts, Joseph J. as Primary Sponsor.

18 cosponsors. This bill is named for Grace Gleba, a young girl who was born with a severe hearing impairment. The bill provides that the coverage shall include the purchase of a hearing aid for each ear, when medically necessary and as prescribed or recommended by a licensed physician or audiologist. The bill provides that the insurer may limit the benefit to \$1,000 per hearing aid for each hearing-impaired ear every 24 months.



Gallaudet University, MSW Program

Have you considered pursuing an MSW degree? If you meet the qualifications below, now is the time to apply for the fall 2004 semester.

The Masters in Social Work Program at Gallaudet University provides training to work in the deaf and hard of hearing communities in a variety of social work settings including child welfare, mental health, school settings, working with older deaf persons, substance abuse domestic violence, and community advocacy and planning. Preference is given to candidates who have sign language skills at the time of admission, a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts with a GPA of 3.0 or above, excellent interpersonal skills, and a strong interest in working in the deaf community.

The department has recently established a School Social Work Specialization. We are currently in the third year of a five year grant from the U.S. Department of Education that supports training social workers to work in schools with deaf and hard of hearing children.

This area of focus includes specifically tailored coursework, internships in school settings and financial assistance, in return for a commitment to work with deaf children in schools after graduation. Individuals representing a wide range of diversity who mirror the diversity of children in our schools are especially encouraged to apply.

The MSW Program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and has won recognition as an approved NCATE (National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) program. Full and part time options are available. Internships at the advanced year level are now designed to provide full-semester experiences in outstanding placements throughout the country.



For more information, visit our Web page at: <http://depts.gallaudet.edu/social.work/>

Further information about the School Social Work grant can be obtained by sending an e-mail to: teresa.arcari@gallaudet.edu

Raritan Valley Community College's Corporate and Continuing Education Division offers an intensive Sign Language Weekend on April 2, 3 and 4. Students participate in a total immersion program to study and promote the learning of signing. The program is designed for beginners as well as advanced students. It is an interactive workshop whose objectives are cultural awareness, vocabulary development and conversational skills. Students learn the principal techniques of signing, finger spelling, visual sensitivity, and the psychology of deafness.

For info contact; Carol Desmond Clark, Program Director , 908-218-8871
Voice, cclark@raritanval.edu, Raritan Valley Community College, POB 3300, Somerville, NJ 08876.

Communicator Signboard

Ocean Deaf Club, Inc.

General Meeting
March 20 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Presbyterian Church
101 Orchard St., Lakehurst, NJ

Lingo Games Night at 8 p.m.
Opens at 6:30 pm NO EARLYBIRD

Members \$8, Non-Members \$10
No children please
Info: Contact ODCPresident2@aol.com

"Magic Show"
By Morton Feldman (Deaf)
April 17 2 p.m.
Presbyterian Church
101 Orchard St., Lakehurst, NJ

Members \$5, Non-Members \$7, Children \$5
Pizza will be on sale

Lingo Games Night at 8 p.m.
Members \$8, Non-Members \$10, no children.
Opens at 6:30 p.m.
Info: ODCPresident2@aol.com

New York Society for the Deaf

is proud to announce Jewish Deaf Services at NYSD. Making Jewish communal life accessible to the Jewish Deaf community through a full range of social, religious and community services.

JEWISH EDUCATION - Lectures/workshops/field trips in American Sign Language. Hebrew instruction using Israeli Sign Language.

TRAINING - Deaf culture and ASL classes for Jewish parents with Deaf children. Strategies for creating a "Deaf-friendly" workplace/organization. Hiring Interpreters for Jewish settings.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES - Monthly Shabbat Services, Jewish Holiday services and events. Life cycle events (baby naming ceremonies, funerals, etc.).

FOR SENIORS - Hot Kosher Lunch program at Tanya Towers. Transportation Service Coordination.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES - Referrals to community-based organizations and agencies, Jewish interpreter directory links to Jewish and Deaf Web sites.

Info - Marla Berkowitz, Director of Jewish Deaf Services, 646-278-8160 TTY, 212-777-3900 Voice, 212-777-5740 Fax, Mberkowitz@nysd.org

Communicator Signboard



**Calling all Jewish Deaf and Hard of Hearing Families:
Join Our Way for a Purim Celebration
Power Point Megillat Esther Reading**

Please join us for refreshments after Megillah Reading

Where? Congregation Ahavas Achim Bnei David & Jacob (AABD&J)

The Sephardic, Minyan Room, 700 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ

When? Saturday evening, March 6, 2004, 6:45 p.m.

Cost? No charge, BUT costumes are encouraged!

For additional locations and further information, please contact:

Batya Jacob (212) 613-8127 Voice, areilib@ou.org,

N W J A D

(Northwest Jersey Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.)

Back By Popular Demand
NWJAD-0 ! (formerly DINGO)

A Fund-Raiser for Deaf Children's Events

Saturday, March 13

Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.

Limit is 150 people (First Come, First Served)

WIN CASH !

Members: \$5, Non-Members: \$10

* You must be 21 and older to play

Refreshments will be sold

(Alcohol Is Not Served)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 215 Boulevard

Mountain Lakes, NJ

Your Host: The NWJAD Board

KID'S EASTER PARTY !

Saturday, March 27

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

MAGIC BOB!

Comedy Magic Show!

New Arts & Crafts for Kids of All Ages!!!

Make Your Own Name Beads !

DEAF ASL BUNNY!

CANDY GUESS !

FREE Admission for All FREE Refreshments

Co-Chairs: Lori Adams & Bonnie Thomas

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

215 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ

For more info, directions: www.nwjad.org, NWJADeaf@aol.com or nwjad@nwjad.org

Communicator Signboard

South Jersey 2nd Annual Singles Classic Bowling Tournament

Hosted by the South Jersey Bowling Association for the Deaf
& Brunswick Zone Turnersville, 100 Amerian Blvd., Turnersville, NJ (856) 629-2422 Voice

Saturday April 3rd

Open to men and women who are deaf, hard of hearing and interpreters.

Separate divisions for men and women.

Squads start at 12:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Registration starts 1/2 hour before each squad. in tournament - no reservations necessary.

Men's 1st Place, \$1,000, based on 100 entries, ratio 1 in 4 cash.

Women's 1st place, \$500, based on 50 entries, ratio 1 in 4 cash.

ABC & WIBC Sanction Card must be shown. No PBA or LPBA members.

Handicap for men 70% of 210 and women 80% of 210.

Handicap limit 40 pins per game for men and 55 pins per game for women.

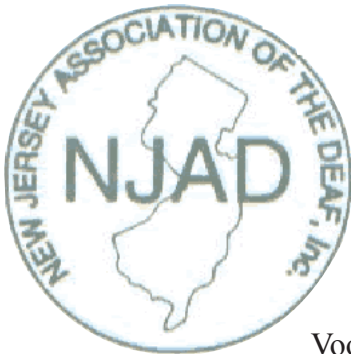
4 games across 8 lanes.

Entry fee: \$45 (cash only, no checks) Re-entry \$45

Prize Fund - \$30 (returned 100%), Lineage - \$9, Expenses - \$6

All spectators \$5 admission

Info: 856- 467-1662 Fax, jenjon@comcast.net



New Jersey Association of the Deaf

Presented by Meghan Rainone
Breast Health Awareness:

How to Take Care of Yourself

Sunday, April 4th, 2004

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Voorhees Regional Branch Library, 203 Laurel Road,
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Light refreshments served.

Special requests for assistive listening device, voice interpreter & CART should be made two weeks in advance.

Info: Carrie Pogue, Workshop Coordinator at ECEMPOG@aol.com, 609-476-3526 Voice, 609-476-2834 Fax

Communicator Signboard

McCarter Theatre

McCarter Theatre Center
Princeton, NJ
presents Sign Language Interpreted performance of

"Candida"

An impetuous young poet comes between a progressive-minded clergyman and his beautiful and charismatic wife, who shrewdly puts their competing claims for her love to the test.

Saturday, April 10 - 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$10

Info: marketing@mccarter.org, 609-252-0915 TTY, www.mccarter.org

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Oliver!

Open Captioned
performance only

March 31

Prudential Hall
Ticket Prices: \$62 - \$12
Tuesday, March 30 through
Sunday, April 4



NETworks Presentations presents
Cameron Mackintosh's
spectacular London production of
Lionel Bart's beloved musical
coming to Prudential Hall!
Based on Charles Dickens' classic
Victorian novel, Oliver!
Brings vibrant new life to an
unforgettable cast of characters -
from Fagin and Nancy to Bill Sikes and
The Artful Dodger - and to a score
stuffed with popular tunes.

877-886-5722 TTY, 888-466-5722 Voice, www.njpac.org

Communicator Signboard

The Hearing Society

First Baptist Church of Westfield, P.O. Box 2534,
Westfield, NJ, 07091

Office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursdays only.

Classes in Basic Sign Language are from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Lip Reading is from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Free to members of the Society.

The tentative date for our **"Pot Luck"** luncheon will be Thursday, March 11th at 12 noon. Members and their friends are invited to come and bring food to share.

Info: (908)233-0266 V/TTY

Third Annual Jewish Deaf Singles Registry Retreat

Welcome Jewish deaf and hard of hearing singles including divorced and widowed worldwide:
Secular, Reform, Conservative, Traditional, Orthodox

**June 25-27, 2004 at
Hebrew Institute of White Plains, NY**

Fun, learning, outing, meals, and more.

Fees: Early bird special for those who have renewed membership and first time, new member *until April 21st. Regular and late fees upon request. Limited scholarship available.

*Request a membership application first.

Housing: Available on a first come first served basis in private homes within the community. Arrangements have also been made to offer a special price at the nearby Crown Plaza for an additional cost of \$105 per night. The rooms can accommodate up to four people.

Contact: Samuel and Rachelle Landau, JDSR Coordinators, Landau9@optonline.net, write to JDSR PO Box 2005, NY NY 10159-2005 or 908-352-7395 Fax.

Calendar of Events 2004

Saturday, April 3
UCC's ASL Festival

"Celebrating Deaf Youth" at noon
Info: Pat Penberthy 973-394-1653 Voice,
paknight@optonline.net

Friday, May 7
East Brunswick Public Library
DDHH Advisory Council Meeting
Info: 800-792-8339 V/TTY

Saturday, June 5
Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc.
Wallyball & Swim Fun Night
for Adults & Kids!
www.nwjad.org

April 30 - May 2
NJRID Biennial Conference
Exercising Your Professionalism
www.njrid.org

Saturday, June 12
**DDHH 20th Annual Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Awareness Day**
Six Flags Great Adventure
Jackson, NJ
Ticket info: Lauren Lercher
GATickets@aol.com

DDHH Office Closed - April 9

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
PO BOX 074
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0074

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